HANDIWORK OF INDIANS

Baskets, Mats, and Wickerwork Woven by Deft Fingers.

The Interesting Collection Made Under the Direction of Miss Reel, Superintendent of Schools—To Be Sent to the Buffalo Exposition.

There was on exhibition in a room in the Indian Bureau for the past few weeks a collection illustrating the arts, native and acquired, of the red men of the United States. The object of the collection, which was made under the direction of Miss Reel, Superintendent of Indian Schools, and which has been sent to the Teachers' Congress in Detroit and the Buffalo Exposition, is a most worthy one—to call attention to the capabilities of the Indian in certain lines of industry, and thus open, if possible, an extended market for their wares.

A Times reporter, chancing to stroll into the room where the collection was stored, had the various articles explained to him by the very affable young lady in charge.

"I'm sorry Miss Reel is not here," said she; "she knows so much more about it than I do. You see, there are only the baskets here now, and these few specimens of lace work, which are very beautiful. I know men don't know much about lace, but if you were a woman you would just go wild over them; that handkerchief is simply exquisite. It is wonderful with what aptitude the Indian women have acquired the art of lace making.

"Some of these baskets are very curious. Basket making is, of course, a native art with the Indians, which they have practiced from time immemorial. The art is being perpetuated and taught in the schools, but the teachers are the old squaws, who alone understand it. The art is practiced to greatest perfection by the most uncivilized tribes—the more civilized the Indians the worse their basket making. Look at this, for instance. The combination of colors is simply horrible, and the workmanship is poor. These bright hues are produced by means of cheap chemical dyes, while the colors in these specimens of genuine native work are the natural tints of the various grasses used. The pattern, you will observe, appears both on the outside and inside of the basket, as in an ingrain carpet.

"Various tribes have each their distinctive type of basketry. This is quite a rare kind—the outside, as you see, completely covered with the vari-colored feathers of small birds, while the basket itself is woven so tightly that it will hold water. All the work is done by hand, you must remember. Now, here is a wickerwork water bottle. The shape of this utensil, curiously enough, is nearly or quite identical with that of the earthen jars used for a similar purpose in the Orient. In use this bottle is covered on the outside with a coating of pitch, which is moistened, and on the hottest day the water in the bottle remains perfectly cool.

"This," said the speaker, in reference to an article like the cover of a large basket, but open in the centre, is a hat. And this is a gambling mat." The article referred to was a circular mat of finely woven grass or straw, decorated, like the rest of the articles in the collection, so as to resemble the skin of a many-hued serpent. The use of this mat for the purpose implied by its name would appear to be both curious and unique. One of the parties in the game of chance holds in his hands, beneath the mat and covered by the same, a number of stones. The other player or players are then called upon to guess the number of stones, or else the position of his hands, which latter is done by those guessing tapping the top of the mat in the supposed location. The one guessing nearest the number of stones held, or the position of the holder's hands wins the game.

The collection has attracted the attention of experts in Indian basketry in this city, prominent among whom is Prof. Otis T. Mason, Curator of the Division of Ethnology at the Smithsonian Institution. From the investigations of Prof. Mason it appears that the art owes its origin to the methods employed by the primitive Indian hunters in catching game and fish.

"The ancient engineers in America," says he, "who built obstructions in streams to aid in catching or impounding fish, drove a row of sticks into the bottom of the stream a few inches apart. Vines and brush were woven upon these upright sticks which served for warp. In passing each stake the two vines or pieces of brush made a half turn on each other. This formed a very primitive mode of weaving. Plain twined basketry is made on exactly the same plan; there is a set of warp elements which may be reeds, or splints, or string.

"The finest specimens of wickerwork in America," continued Prof. Mason, "are the very pretty Hopi plaques, of which there are numerous examples in the collection. The method of making these is as follows: Short stems are dyed in various colors, worked into the warp, and driven tightly home so as to hide the ends, and also the manner of weaving. Various patterns are effected on the surface—clouds, mythical birds, and symbols connected with worship. It has passed into modern industry through the cultivation of osiers, rattan, and such plants for market baskets, covers for glass bottles, and in ribbed cloth, wherein a flexible weft is worked on a rigid warp.

"Twined or wattled basketry is found in ancient mounds of the Mississippi Valley, in the Rocky Mountains, and all down the Pacific coast from the island of Attu, the most westerly of the Aleutian chain, to the borders of Mexico. It is the most elegant and intricate of all in the woven or plicated species. In the diagonal twined weaving in this species of work, the method of manipulation lends itself to the most beautiful and delicate twined work of the Porno Indians. Gift baskets, holding more than a bushel, and requiring months of patient labor to construct, are thus woven. By varying the color of the weft splints and changing from diagonal to plain weaving, the artist is enabled to control absolutely the figure on the surface.

"Coiled basketry is produced by an over-and-over sewing, with some kind of flexible material, each stitch interlocking with the one immediately underneath it. The transition between lacework and coiled basketry is interesting. In the netted bags of pita fiber, common throughout middle America, in the muskemoots or Indian bags of fine caribou-skin thong from the Mackenzie River district, as well as in the lace-like netting of the Mojave carrying frames and Peruvian textiles, the serving and interlocking constitute the whole texture, the woman doing her work over a short cylinder or spreader of wood or bone, which she moves along as she works. When the plain sewing changes to half-stitches, in which the moving part of the filament or twine is wrapped or served one or more times about itself, there is the rude beginning of open lacework. This is seen in Fuegan basketry, as well as in specimens of work from the Old World.

"The sewing materials used by primitive peoples vary with the region. In the Aleutian islands, for example, it is a delicate straw, in an adjacent region it is spruce root; in British Columbia it is cedar or spruce root; in the more diversified styles of the Pacific States every available material has been used—stripped leaf, grass stems, rushes, split root, broad fillets, and twine, the effect of each being well marked. In all coiled basketry, properly so called, there is a foundation more or less rigid, enclosed within stitches, the only implement used being originally a bone awl.

"I have seen a bone awl, made from the metatarsal of an antelope, used as a needle for the finest kinds of basket making. It is the opinion of many that this bone awl is far better for its purpose than any implement of steel; the point, being a little rounded, finds its way between the stitches of the coil underneath and does not force itself through them. The iron awl, being hard and sharp, breaks the texture and gives a very rough and clumsy appearance to the surface. In every culture province of America wherever graves have been open, the bone stiletto has been recovered, showing the widespread use of threads or filaments employed in joining two fabrics, or for perforating those already made to receive coilwork and other embroideries."

FEASTS BEHIND FOOTLIGHTS.

Difficult Work to Gracefully Perform Eating Parts.

A central incident in each of the late James A. Herne's plays, "Shore Acres" and "Sag Harbor," was the dinner scene. Everyone who saw "Shore Acres" remembers the feast, with the roast turkey, which came on steaming and was cut up and divided among the guests. It was no make believe or property turkey, for not only did the smoke arise before the audience and the dressing gush out when it was opened, but the fragrance floated all through the auditorium. The actors in the play have told how surfeited they became. Before the season ended, with roast turkey. Night after night they were obliged to partake of the bird, until the sight of it became almost unendurable. As the turkey was a large one, so that everybody might be helped in profusion, the aggregate cost at the end of the winter was something considerable.

Pleased with the success of the turkey in "Shore Acres," Mr. Herne introduced a real clam pie into the action in "Sag Harbor." It must be said, however, that in places where clams were not to be had oysters served just as well. The point was to have a genuine pie, and this was invariably brought from the kitchen, and it was appetizing to see the seafaring folk on the stage enjoy it and to smell the perfume of the clams when it was cut up. As in the case of the turkey, however, the actors in the piece soon tired of the pie, although succulent it may have been at first.

Mr. Herne thought, from long experience and observation, that audiences like to see a good dinner eaten on the stage. Other playwrights have been of the same opinion, for eating and drinking occurs in many dramatic works. Dinner as an incident is very useful, or even supper. Recall the lively supper in "Camille"—the furious talk and laughter, everybody gabbling at once and eating at the same time. There is something of the same kind in Mr. Mansfield's "A Parisian Romance." And how amusing, as in "Aunt Jack," if there is a comic character, who cannot get waited upon, and who sits half starved. In London at present there is a play in which the dinner scene occupies three-quarters of an hour—far too long. Twenty or twenty-five minutes is abundance for an incident of this character.

Stage banquets, however, are not invariably merry, as witness a very old one—that in "Macbeth," where Banquo is a guest unseen by all but the host, whose ravings at the sight throw everything into disorder and cause the hostess to dismiss the company. There is also an outdoor dinner going on in "As You Like It" when Orlando interrupts. In Shakespeare's time at these stage feasts the performers used as food marchpane, a sort of biscuit, to which one of the servants makes allusion in "Romeo and Juliet"—"Good thou, save me a piece of marchpane." The actors grumbled at the constant use of marchpane, and would have preferred something substantial. In the last century, when the strolling players went more or less merrily on foot and were much of the time half starved, real food in the plays was more than welcome. There was a British manager who, whenever salaries were considerably in arrears and dissatisfaction prevalent, soothed everybody into good humor again by putting up the nautical drama "The Cramond Brig," which calls for a dinner of boiled mutton and turnips. In "The Gentle Shepherd," which used to be given in Scotland, real haggis was introduced. There was also a very elaborate meal in the old farce, "No Song, No Supper."

Persons in the audience are not aware, perhaps, that it is difficult to eat on the stage and carry on the dialogue at the same time. Not a little practice is required. The experienced players, however, do it gracefully and well. Before an audience one must eat very daintily, else well-bred people in front will criticise. An actress must also know something about cooking, or, at least, about the preparation of food. Making bread on the stage is common, and in Robertson's "Ours" there is a charming scene where Mary Netley runs about in the hut in the Crimea with sleeves rolled up and in her hand the well dusted rolling pin. She also works out the dough.

Occasionally there is too much drinking. In a play entitled "The Wary Widow," which was acted in 1693, it is said that there was so much whisky punch consumed that all the performers became intoxicated. Mr. Clement Scott, in his memoirs, relates the disastrous experience some years ago in London of Miss Nita Nicotina, a young woman who made her debut in a play called "Ecarte." The Australian tragedian, Boothroyd Fairclough, was in the cast. The picnic scene was of highly realistic character—genuine hampers from Fortnum & Mason's, Perigord pies, chicken, truffles, and champagne. The repast was of sumptuous character, and the actors and actresses ate and drank heartily. The gallery, after a while, becoming weary of so much feasting without being able to join in it, began to jeer. The champagne continued to flow, and Miss Nicotina displayed the effects of overindulgence. The jeers turned into yells, and presently, when she entered with a green boot on one foot and a yellow boot on the other, the yells became howls, and the lady unwisely attempted a speech. The piece ended in a riot and the lights were put out.—Baltimore News.

A SEARCH FOR ANCIENT UR

The Important Undertaking Proposed by Scientists.

Extensive Excavations to Be Made in the Wilds of Arabia If Permission Can Be Obtained From the Turkish Ruler—The Party's Plans.

To discover in the wilds of the Arabian desert the remains of "Ur of the Chaldees," the natal city of Abraham, whence he set out by divine command for the land of Canaan, is the work proposed by an exploring party of three scientists, one of whom, Dr. E. J. Banks, is now in Constantinople awaiting the necessary permission from the Sultan of Turkey.

The results of the expedition, in inscribed and sculptured stone—in fact, in remains of all kinds—will be sent to the National Museum, where they will be placed on public view as soon as practicable.

Application has been made, through the Department of State, to the Sublime Porte for permission to excavate Ur of the Chaldees, and the neighboring ruins of the ancient Babylonian city of Eridu. Even in the event of the permission being granted, work cannot be commenced until next fall or winter, as the thermometer stands ordinarily in the locality to be explored at 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

Prof. William Palmer, naturalist, is the only scientist of the Smithsonian who will accompany the expedition. Dr. E. J. Banks, director, and Mr. Fred F. Lavis, engineer, the remaining members, are also eminently fitted for their task. Dr. Banks is a profound Assyriologist, a graduate of Harvard University and of the Royal University of Breslau, Germany. He was for some time United States Consul at Bagdad, Turkey. Mr. Lavis is an experienced engineer.

Ur, perhaps the oldest city in history and the birthplace of civilization, is represented today by the mounds of Mugheir, hills of larger size rising above the rolling sands of the desert. "And Thare took Abram, his son, and Lot, the son of Aran, his son's son, and Sarai, his daughter-in-law, the wife of Abram, his son, and brought them out of Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan, and they came as far as Haran, and dwelt there." Such is the Biblical mention of Ur (Genesis, xi:31).

The ruins which it is proposed to investigate, and which are determined to be the remains of the ancient political and religious head of the Babylonian Empire, consist, superficially, of a group of mounds near the River Euphrates, opposite Nasarieh. They were examined in 1854 by Mr. Taylor, an English Consul at Busreh. Digging a few trenches, he revealed the walls of an ancient temple, the most perfect specimen of Babylonian architecture known. In its corners were first found inscriptions containing the name of Belshazzar. Other mounds of the group conceal the palaces of the kings of Ur, and the artistic and literary remains of this most ancient city. Ancient inscriptions uncovered by the rains or by the native Arabs may now be seen lying on the surface. Mr. Taylor opened a few of the graves which abound. In one of them he found a skeleton lying on a reed mat, with a reed basket at the feet, fourteen clay vessels, a copper bowl, an inscribed cylinder fastened about the wrist, a band of pure gold about an inch broad, four duck statuettes, a cat's-eye stone, and a white sandstone cylinder. This grave was more than 2,500 years old.

From Babylonian history it is known that the palaces of three dynasties of kings and five temples were erected at Ur. Search in the mounds, it is expected, will reveal not only their ruins, but the rich bas-reliefs and inscriptions which lined the walls, and a Babylonian library similar to those found at Ninevah and Nippur.

It is urged that the excavation of Ur should not be delayed, for the neighboring Arabs are digging bricks from the ruins, destroying the inscriptions, probably of priceless value, which they uncover. Delay may thus cause the destruction of some of the most valuable records of antiquity.

No explorations have been made on the site of Ur since Mr. Taylor's discovery, that is, for nearly fifty years. During that time scholars have urged the necessity for investigating what may prove the richest mine of antiquarian lore yet found—a course which may reveal more direct evidence in support of the account of the infancy of the human race as contained in the Scriptures. Says William R. Harper, Ph. D., D. D., LL. D., President of the University of Chicago, and Principal of the American Institute of Sacred Literature: "From no source have we received so much material of educational value for purposes of history, archaeology, and language, as from the material obtained in expeditions to the ancient Assyrians and Babylonian cities."

Paul Haupt, Ph. D., professor of Semitic languages and Director of the Oriental Seminary, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Honorary Curator of the Division of Historic Archaeology, U. S. National Museum, formerly professor of Assyriology in the Royal University of Gottingen, etc., says: "I have advocated exploration of Ur of the Chaldees for the last seventeen years. Excavations in the traditional home of Abraham (Genesis, xi:31), will no doubt throw a flood of light on the early history of Babylonia as well as on the early narratives of Genesis. If the plan can be carried out in the proper way, we may be able to bring to this country a collection of Babylonian antiquities, elucidating the dawn of civilization and especially Biblical archaeology, not inferior to the Oriental treasures of the British Museum, the Louvre, or the Royal Museum of Berlin."

Says Rev. John P. Peters, Ph. D., D. D., LL. D., Director of the first American expedition to Nippur, etc.: "I visited Mugheir (Ur of the Chaldees) toward the close of May, 1890. I found several inscribed door sockets lying on the surface of the ground as well as large numbers of inscribed bricks. All of the door sockets but one had been defaced by the Arabs. Ancient remains lie practically on the surface, not covered by an immense mass of debris of later periods. Excavations at this site reach old material at once." In his noted work "Nippur," Vol. II, p. 300, Dr. Peters says: "I have seen no mound which seems easier or safer to excavate, or promises greater results."

The fact that the more ancient remains lie at the surface is a great advantage. In many cases, in excavating the site of an ancient and buried city, the remains of not one, but a half-dozen, may be disclosed in successive layers, as it were. Thus the coins, potteries, architectural remains, etc., first encountered may denote the occupation, by a foreign horde or tribe, of the site of a more ancient city buried beneath. Excavations have been conducted under these conditions, revealing the fact that the same site had been occupied by varied and successive peoples, with several thousands of years' interval between the first and last occupation. This will not, it seems, be the case at Ur. But there are other difficulties to be encountered by the investigators.

"In the first case, there is the obtaining of the firman of the Sultan," said Prof. William Palmer, the Smithsonian naturalist, who is one of the members of the proposed expedition, to a Times representative. "This obtained, we will have to deal with the Arab sheiks, who hold more or less unauthorized dominion over the site of the contemplated explorations, but who have to be treated with, nevertheless, so we may hire men from them. We will now have to wait for the cool season, and our living, even then, will not in all probability be luxurious. We will have to subsist largely on dates, about the only food product of that country, besides various preparations of milk. As I do not like milk, the latter will probably disagree with me most. By the way, do you know that several hundred thousand tons of preserved dates are exported annually to this country from the very region to which we are going? The valley of the Euphrates supplies every quarter of the world with this commodity. Europeans and Americans, when speaking of food, generally picture wheat, which makes bread; meat, fowl, fancy vegetables, etc. They do not reflect that by far the greater number of the population of the globe subsist on dates and rice, and milk, and never think of those things. In dates we will find all the sustenance we need, and we will be further sustained by the hope of discoveries the importance of which there is no estimating."

The fund for the expedition has been obtained from private sources, chiefly from those interested in and encouraging archaeological research. The president of the society under which the expedition was organized is William R. Harper; Vice Presidents, Bishop Henry C. Potter, D. D., New York; Bishop John F. Hurst, D. D., Washington; W. F. Whitney, Esq., Massachusetts; F. N. Peloubet, D. D., Massachusetts; R. R. McLeod, Esq., Novia Scotia; Isidor Straus, Esq., New York; Hon. R. R. Hitt, Illinois.

Among the members of the advisory board is Dr. Cyrus Adler, the well-known Assyriologist, of the Smithsonian Institution. The treasurer is George Foster Peabody, of New York; secretary, Willis Hatfield Hazard, Ph. D., of New York.

AN ENGLISH ROMAN CITY.

Some Interesting Discoveries Made in the Silchester Excavations.

Few of us realize for how long a period the Roman occupation of Britain lasted. It will presently be 300 years since the death of Queen Elizabeth, and how great a part that time seems of our national story! But from the landing of Caesar to the recall of the troops by Honorius was half as long again—over 450 years. That was the time of which Cowper wrote:

The Romans taught thy stubborn knee to bow,
But twice a Caesar could not bend thee now.

It was a bright time for Britain, if one may believe the orator Eumenius' panegyric on Constantine: "Oh, fortunate Britannia," he exclaims, "thee hath nature deservedly enriched with the choicest blessings of heaven and earth! Thou feelest neither the excessive cold of winter nor the scorching heat of summer. Thy harvests supply thy tables with bread and thy cellars with liquor. Innumerable are thy herds of cattle and thy flocks of sheep, which feed thee plentifully and clothe thee richly." Well said, Eumenius; Britain's good fortune had already begun. Those fifteen generations of Roman governors and settlers built cities and made roads, introduced civilization and law, the arts of peace and war, and became one of the factors of this nation. Whoso cares to look behind the scenes of that spacious time—and who cares not?—let him go to the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, during the next fortnight and see the free exhibition of remains which diligent explorers have disentombed from the old buried British-Roman town of Calleva, or Calleva Attrebatum.

It is a wonder-provoking story, that of Calleva. At this day the place is a portion of a farm in Berkshire, part of the Strathfield estate, in the parish of Silchester, some ten miles southwest of Reading, and three miles from Mortimer Station of the Great Northern Railway. Possibly 1900 years ago it was a Roman town, with a wall round it two miles in circuit. Then the Romans left; fierce Saxon times followed, and soon Calleva perished. It was a deserted town. Next for hundreds of years it was buried, pastures grew, and corn crops ripened, where there had been basilica, and forum, and shrine. Yet the covered city would not be ignored; for faithful old Leland, in the reign of Henry VIII, tells us that "the lines of streets were noticed thro' differences in the color of the crops growing over them." Even in our ashes live their wonted fires. Then in 1864, at the expense of the Duke of Wellington, regular explorations began, and the Rev. J. G. Joyce, rector of Strathfieldsaye, unearthed two large and two small houses, circular temple, a great town hall or basilica, a marketplace, or forum, and a large building, with baths attached, which was believed to have been an inn or hospitium.

Since 1890 the work has been carried on by the Silchester Excavation Fund, and there have been found forty-four additional complete houses, parts of thirteen others, a private building establishment, two square temples, a small shrine, a Christian church—probably of the fourth century, and one of the oldest relics of Christianity in Europe—and a series of buildings in an industrial quarter, which were perhaps dyeworks, besides a singular system of drains and a small water gate. Here is no military camp, but a civil township, and no Roman military camp is half the size of the Silchester area. In no other Roman-British site have there been brought to light so many houses, temples, or public buildings; and no other place has yielded a forum or a Christian church. The objects now shown are of the civil type—smiths' and carpenters' tools, a shoemaker's anvil, plow coulters, a huge padlock, copper and bronze cooking pans, vases, vessels of various patterns, panel of a mosaic pavement, and coins from the republican days of Marc Antony through the imperial domination down to the withdrawal. They are mostly of bronze. Many of silver have been found, but gold coins are very rare. It may be added that gold coins of the reign of King Edward VII, to the value of £3,000, are also lacking—wanted to complete these most interesting explorations. The whole area covers 100 acres. Of these seventy-three have been excavated and planned, "but a considerable portion of the city still remains to be explored." Beneath there may yet be buried priceless memorials of that distant past.—London Daily Telegraph.

WASHINGTON IN WAR TIMES

How the News of the Fall of Richmond Was Received Here.

The Whole City Wild With Joy—Speechmaking and Enthusiasm on Every Hand—The Review of the Victorious Armies on the Avenue.

Many citizens of Washington remember the stirring scenes in the Capital on that eventful day in April, 1865, when the news came that Richmond and Petersburg had fallen and Lee's army was in retreat toward Appomattox. A few days ago several old citizens were discussing the past history of the city and one of them gave the following interesting account of the reception of the news of the success of the Union army in Virginia:

"It would be impossible," said he, "to adequately describe the emotions of the people of this city when the momentous intelligence was flashed over the wires. Those whose own kith and kin were still in the ranks felt a double joy at the news, while a perfect frenzy of excitement and gratification was visible among the multitudes which had in it something irresistibly contagious. In the streets all men, young and old, greeted each other most ardently; ladies flung to the breezes their miniature flags, and the judges of the courts deserted the bench, suspending the machinery of justice in the gratification of a worthy and patriotic instinct. The schools dismissed their scholars, business was deserted on all hands, and all repaired to the vicinity of the public buildings to acquire a fuller knowledge of the incidents of the three days' terrible fighting which immediately preceded the fall of the two cities, the fate of which had so long been linked together.

"A scene of wild excitement was presented at the Patent Office when the news of the fall of Petersburg was received, and a few hours later, when word of the fall of Richmond came, it was apparent everywhere that a heavy cloud of anxiety and gloom had been lifted from the public mind. Patriotic exercises were immediately and spontaneously commenced in the open air in front of the Patent Office building. A gentleman by the name of Thompson began to sing 'Rally Round the Flag,' the crowd joining in the chorus. Mr. Holloway, Commissioner of Patents, then addressed the assemblage and was followed by Hon. J. P. Usher, during the course, or rather at the close, of whose address some one in the crowd suggested, at the mention by the orator of the word 'evacuated,' that the Interior Department be evacuated.

"Immediately the entire crowd took up its line of march for the State, War, and Navy Departments. Here they were addressed by the Secretary of State, who was followed by Hon. Preston King, Hon. J. W. Nye, and others. Then came Hon. Edwin M. Stanton, who at the close of his remarks presented to the assemblage the boy Willie Ketties, fourteen years old, an operator in the military telegraph office, who had received the despatch announcing the fall of Richmond at 8:15 a. m. that morning, April 3.

"From the residence of Francis P. Blair, Vice President Andrew Johnson made an eloquent speech, and from the balconies of all the hotels poured forth a chorus of patriotic music and oratory. Hon. Richard Yates spoke from the steps of the National Hotel, and Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler from in front of Willard's. General Butler said that the god of justice worked by means, and perhaps there could be found in history no more striking and suggestive instance of retribution than that of the corps of colored troops under General Wetzel being the first to enter Richmond after its fall.

"Four regiments of the Veteran Reserve Corps and two squadrons of cavalry, accompanied by a fine band of music, paraded the principal streets of the city. The northern portico of the War Department building was decorated with flags, and the Veteran Regiment Band played patriotic airs. A salute of 800 guns was fired near Franklin Square—500 for Richmond and 300 for Petersburg—and the Stars and Stripes were seen in all quarters. None more sincerely rejoiced than the sick and wounded soldiers in the hospitals, who, on the communication of the news to them, raised their voices in a feeble hurrah. Work was generally suspended in the public departments, the clerks rushing into the streets to unite with their fellow-citizens in the general rejoicing. At the navy yard and arsenal suspension of work was also in order, and the vessels all around the city were gaily decked with bunting.

"The illumination of the city and the display of fireworks on the night of April 4 surpassed in magnificence anything that has ever been seen in Washington. The Capitol building shone as though it were transparent, its graceful dome glittering with multitudinous lights like an immense jewel. The Botanic Gardens exhibited one of the most beautiful features of the display. All the public buildings, the principal buildings, and thousands of private residences were illuminated.

"Less than a month later occurred the ever-memorable review of the Grand Army, the veterans fresh from the most terrible battlefields of modern times. May 23 was devoted to reviewing the Army of the Potomac, the following day the Armies of Georgia and Tennessee. All Washington, nearby, and persons from other places crowded the streets, sidewalks, and roofs of houses on both days to witness perhaps the most imposing parade that was ever organized. The various corps, brigades, and other bodies of the Army of the Potomac crossed the Potomac River during the early morning of the 23d, and arranged themselves on the various streets and avenues ready to fall into line at the appointed time. The thoroughfares had been sprinkled on the preceding night by the fire department, and barrels of water were placed at intervals for the soldiers to drink as they passed along on their march. The cavalry formed north of the Capitol, the line extending far beyond the city limits. The children of the public schools were tastefully arrayed, and arranged on the high ground north of the Capitol. Thousands of banners were carried in the procession, the tattered flag of battle, its darkened shreds telling of the storm of death in which it had stood, contrasting with the folds flying from windows bearing mottos appropriate to the occasion, one of the most popular being: 'The Only Debt We Can Never Pay Is the Debt We Owe to the Victorious Union Soldiers.'

"At the head of the Army of the Potomac rode Maj. Gen. George G. Meade, accompanied by his staff. Then came the cavalry; immediately after the headquarters' escort, in command of Major General Merritt, The Third Cavalry division was in command of Maj. Gen. George A. Custer, afterward killed at Little Big Horn, and the entire cavalry force followed in brigades and divisions. Then came the Ninth Army Corps, in command of Maj. Gen. John G. Parke; the Fifth Corps, in command of Maj. Gen. Charles Griffin, and the Second Corps, in command of Maj. Gen. A. A. Humphreys. The procession began to move at 9 a. m., and the passage of troops continued until 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

"On the 24th, the grand army of Georgia and that of Tennessee were reviewed, the crowd of spectators being, if anything, greater than on the day before. General Sherman and his command were received with unbounded enthusiasm all along the route. The head of the column formed on A Street northwest, and at the firing of the signal gun at 9 o'clock the column began to move. Gen. O. O. Howard rode with Sherman, and they were followed by Maj. Gen. W. B. Hazen at the head of the Army of the Tennessee, of which Maj. Gen. John A. Logan was in command. The Seventh Army Corps came next, commanded by Maj. Gen. Francis P. Blair, and then, leading the Army of Georgia, Maj. Gen. H. W. Slocum. This army was composed of the Twentieth and Fourteenth Corps, the former commanded by Maj. Gen. J. A. Mower, the latter by Maj. Gen. Jeff. C. Davis."

WATCHMAN PRESLEY'S DOG.

An Unsalaried Guardian of the Peace in Cleveland.

Old Presley's death not long ago was not widely heralded in the press, yet among the few who knew him best the old man's taking off was sincerely mourned. Old Presley's dog has disappeared from view and it is believed that his demise must have occurred prior to that of his master.

For many years Old Presley was employed as a nightwatchman and special policeman on Pearl Street, between Detroit Street and Franklin Avenue. He did his work faithfully and well through the icy blasts of winter and the sultry heat of summer, and was never missing from his post of duty. His dog, who was believed to be almost as old as Presley himself, was always with him, and lent really valuable assistance to his master.

Old Presley's dog was of the big, black Newfoundland variety, and seemed possessed of almost human intelligence. Many West Siders of nocturnal habits have a long score of grudges against Old Presley's dog, and not a few have sworn dire vengeance upon the officious beast. The fact that at the end of it all Old Presley's dog died in peace and obscurity is but another tribute to his discernment and intelligence.

When Old Presley was making his rounds the dog was invariably to be found sauntering about fifteen paces in front of him. After midnight, when both Presley and the dog knew that all God-fearing folk ought to be at home and in bed, the sagacious canine was wont to begin his activity. In his position as advance guard to the main body, composed of Old Presley himself, the dog considered it his duty to hold up every chance pedestrian until the main body came up and either gathered in the pedestrian or signaled to the advance guard to release the prisoner.

The method employed by Old Presley's dog was as follows: When, during the course of his perambulations he came across some belated individual, he would draw himself up to his greatest possible size and place himself directly in front of the belated pedestrian, gazing fixedly into his face. If the pedestrian made no effort to move the dog would simply stand and petrify him with this gaze until Old Presley came up and made an inspection. If, however, the unwilling prisoner made an attempt to pass on the dog would also take a step nearer, show his teeth and give utterance to a terrifying and guttural "whoof." Just one of the warnings was generally enough, but the dog was ever ready for further action if the necessity arose.

As soon as Old Presley came up near enough to inspect the dog's prisoner and saw that he was not a law breaker or a suspicious person he would strike the sidewalk two sharp raps with his club. This signal was perfectly understood by the dog and he would at once stand aside and allow his prisoner to proceed on his way. If, however, no such signal was given, the animal was certain to hold his prisoner in safe keeping until Old Presley had either received a satisfactory explanation or had placed the fellow under arrest.

Old Presley and his dog had become an integral part of the night landscape in this particular portion of the West Side. They were both generally liked, but certain persons whose business or pleasure frequently called them to this locality during the small hours of the morning grew to have a deep seated hostility toward the dog and meditated dire vengeance. It was certainly galling to their pride and self-respect to be repeatedly held up by this shaggy guardian of the peace who never made friends, and who never recognized any claim for immunity. The recent passing of Presley and the dog left a void and their familiar forms will be missed for a long time by those who had learned to know them.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

RATTLERS BECOMING SCARCE.

Arizona's Prime Reptiles Growing Less in Number.

In a country where a quarter of a century ago a rattlesnake was to be found under every rock and in every hillock, the reptile is rapidly becoming a rarity. With his human relative, the Apache, the rattler is disappearing from Arizona, and is now found only in the most isolated districts.

To the advance of civilization and the unremitting warfare of the road runner and the king snake may be attributed the extermination of the rattler. Wherever irrigation has found its way the rattlesnake has been driven to higher ground, and there the prospector and miner have slain him whenever and wherever found. The road runner, the long-legged, feathered warrior, the fighting cock of the desert, has done his part, and done it well.

Much resembling, but more lightly constructed than the fighting cock, the road runner is one of the most dreaded enemies of the rattler. In fact, so great are his snake killing proclivities that heavy penalties are provided by the Territorial statutes as a protection to him from the gun of the hunter. Apparently immune to the venom in the poison sac of the rattler, the road runner attacks the largest snake with impunity, and was never known to lose a fight. Frequently, indeed, the road runner has been known to battle with and kill a pair of large diamond rattles, whose total weight was five times that of his own.

Not so common an enemy to the rattlesnake, but no less deadly is the king snake, a large species of the bull snake family. Rarely seen in the lower countries, but often found in the northern forests and higher mountains, the king snake wages constant warfare on the rattler, and when his great lithe form coils around the body of the rattlesnake, the life of the latter is a matter of only a few seconds.

Herbert Housland, a prospector, had an experience with a rattler, a king snake, and a road runner a few days ago which he will not soon forget. He was with a party in the Bradshaw Mountains, south of Prescott, and was guarding camp for the day. He had lain down to sleep when he was suddenly aroused, to find a great rattlesnake coiled upon his breast.

"I almost suffocated from fearing to breathe lest I should be bitten," he said. "The snake was greatly excited and in a minute I saw the cause. A king snake was trying to excite the rattler to combat, and my person was the chosen battleground. The king snake had probably forced the rattler to refuge upon my body, and following up his aggressive tactics was running in a circle around the rattler very rapidly. He crossed my breast from left to right and my thighs from right to left, and within less than a foot of the rattler's body.

"The velocity of the snake was most wonderful. It seemed to be one continuous ring, and part of the time I could seemingly see three or four rings at once. I made a slight movement with my right foot, which attracted the rattler's attention for an instant, and that was fatal to him. At that one false movement of his eyes, the king snake darted in and seized the rattler by the throat, close up to his head, and began instantly to coil around his victim.

"They rolled off me in their death struggle and became one tangled mass for ten minutes, when the rattler's sound died away gradually. While I lay exhausted from my fright a road runner darted out of a bush, and grabbing the two snakes in his beak, began to drag them away. The weight was too great, but he killed the king snake by a blow from his long bill, and ran away as I arose. I threw the two reptiles into the bushes and there the bird and his mate devoured them."—The New York Sun.

THE IMITATION OF JEWELS

Bogus Precious Stones That Can Hardly Be Detected.

Many of the Imported Counterfeits Puzzle Customs Officials—Various Kinds of False Pearls, Yet Trade in the Genuine Article Increases.

Although the imitation of jewels has been practiced for a century or more, there are comparatively new developments in the industry every few years, and the business has of late attained enormous proportions. The majority of these stones are made abroad and hence they are imported. But while they are exceedingly cheap and the duty is low, the attempt is occasionally made to smuggle them into the country, and a seizure results. Again, the imitation is sometimes so good that even the customs officers are puzzled for a time. However, it is always possible for an expert to tell the difference, if he has sufficient opportunity to apply the proper tests.

Imitations of the diamond, topaz, emerald, amethyst, and turquoise are usually made of paste or strass, which is nothing more than a particularly fine grade of glass, to which, if the stone is colored, the proper hue has been imparted by the addition of some mineral substance. There is at least one European house, though, which professes to add carbon to its diamond composition, thus securing greater hardness than would otherwise be possible.

In London still another plan is pursued to improve the paste diamond. Genuine diamond dust, produced by the cutting of jewels, is treated with acid, reduced to a plastic state and then rolled out in exceedingly thin sheets. This veneer is cut into the proper shape and cemented on the faces of the strass. Glass diamonds can be bought for a few cents when unset, but a veneered diamond is worth nearly a dollar. A high degree of skill is required in its preparation.

There are several methods of distinguishing between a true diamond and paste. Hydrofluoric acid will eat glass, but will not affect the genuine stone. A file makes no impression on the latter either. Finally, a real diamond continues to glitter when immersed in water.

Some artificial rubies are of paste, others have the same composition as the genuine stone, which consists of corundum. The latter variety of imitation ruby has the proper hardness and specific gravity, and the color is faultless. It can be distinguished from the true ruby only by a powerful magnifying glass. Singularly enough, the genuine article is identified by its defects. There are natural flaws in it not found in the imitation, although the imitation also possesses other characteristics (minute bubbles, for instance) which are readily recognized. On some stones, like the topaz and emerald, it is not wise to use a file. They are not hard enough to resist it. The magnifying glass is the surest means of ascertaining the character of these jewels.

Owing, no doubt, to the fact that pearls are often worn in strings instead of singly or in pairs like diamonds, the business of manufacturing imitations of them is far more extensive than any kindred branch of the industry, except, perhaps, the making of bogus turquoises and emeralds and rubies for belt buckles. And inasmuch as most of these imitation pearls are exceedingly cheap, it is possible for anybody to buy them. Thus, one may get a card bearing a dozen stickpins with imitation pearl heads for from 10 to 15 cents. If the stones were genuine they would each be worth from $100 to $200.

There are several kinds of imitation pearls. One is a glass bead filled with composition. The glass is often not over a sixty-fourth of an inch thick. There are several different compositions used. One looks very much like paraffine. A bead filled with that material would crush easily. In other globular pearls, pierced for stringing, a harder substance is employed. There is an imported imitation pearl whose shell is said to be made of fish skin and whose filling is a compound in which there is ground mother-of-pearl, the lustrous lining of the oyster shell wherein the real pearl is produced. This sort of jewel costs a dollar or two, and a string of sixty would sell for $150. Real pearls of the same size and beauty would bring fully a hundred times that price.

Although the manufacture of imitation pearls was long confined to Europe, it is now conducted in this country also. A New York house, the first to engage in the business, introduced a novelty to the trade a few years ago. It made solid pearls in addition to the filled ones. The composition employed is as hard as rock. It is almost impossible to break these jewels. And their lustre, color, and ingenious irregularity of form will deceive anyone who does not use a magnifying glass on them. The head of this house tells many amusing stories about the mistakes made by expert jewelers and pawnbrokers when these stones first made their appearance. Of course, it is not easy to fool an experienced person. Still, the expert must use a powerful lens in order to ascertain the real character of a pearl. He will not trust the naked eye. Occasionally a jeweler will say: "No, I cannot detect an imitation pearl eight or ten feet away, but if I hold it in my hand I can see the difference between that and the real thing. There's a sort of halo around the genuine article which is unmistakable." But other men in the trade frankly admit that only by means of a microscope can they discriminate.

A fashion has sprung up of late years which enhances the deception produced by imitation jewels. If a paste diamond is set in a brass ring, or an imitation pearl is mounted on a German silver pin, a sharp-eyed observer might suspect the character of the jewel. But when the setting is of 14 carat or 18 carat gold, and the manufacturer has lavished more or less artistic skill on the design of a ring or stud or clasp, a different impression is created.

When one first gets an idea of the enormous extent to which imitation jewels are sold and worn he naturally wonders whether the trade in genuine stones has been affected. But a little enquiry in the proper quarter will satisfy him that it has not. The former are purchased by a class of people who cannot afford the latter. Charles T. Cook, of Tiffany & Co., said the other day: "We do not handle that class of stuff and cannot say anything about it. But we know that more real precious stones are being sold today than ever before. The knowledge that they possess real gems is a source of such pleasure to those who can afford to have them that they will not be satisfied with anything else."—The New York Tribune.

No More Buttons.

(From Tit-Bits.)

A clergyman's wife was mending clothes for her boys when one of her lady neighbors called in to have a friendly chat. It was not long before the visitor's eye was attracted by a large basket, more than half-filled with buttons. The lady could not help remarking that there seemed a very good supply of buttons. Thereupon she began to turn them over, and suddenly exclaimed:

"Here are two buttons exactly the same as those my husband had on his last winter suit. I should know them anywhere."

"Indeed," said the clergyman's wife, quietly. "I am surprised to hear it. As all these buttons were found in the collection bag, I thought I might as well put them to some use."

Before she had finished speaking the visitor hastily arose and said she must be going.

The story soon got about, and since then no buttons have been found in the collection bag